

Listing Of Claims

Claims 1-15 Cancelled

16. (New) A beverage container comprising:

a receptacle having a central axis, a neck that defines an opening and a resilient lid having a closure plate which plate spans the opening of the neck,

a downwardly facing annular shoulder on the outer surface of the neck,

the lid having an annular web extending over the upper end of the neck,

an annular skirt extending downwardly from the outer end of said web,

an annular flange integral with the lower end of the skirt, the flange having an upwardly facing free end, when the lid is assembled on said receptacle,

a resilient hinge connecting the flange to a lower end of the skirt,

the upper edge of the neck deforming the web,

the upwardly facing free end of the downwardly facing flange engaging the shoulder,

the skirt being in tension thereby forcing the shoulder and the free end of the flange together,

the resilient hinge forcing the side surface of the flange against a side surface of the container,

a first gas seal provided by the web deforming engagement of the web and the upper end of the neck,

a second gas seal provided by the engagement of the free end of the flange and the shoulder under force created by tension in said skirt, and

a third gas seal provided by engagement between the side surface of the free end of the flange and the side surface of the receptacle under force provided by the resilience of said hinge.

17. (New) The container of Claim 16 in which the resilient hinge is readily tearable.

18. (New) The container of Claim 16 in which the lid is snap-fitted on the receptacle.

19. (New) The container of Claim 18 further comprising: a rupture tab connected to the annular web, rotation of the rupture tab causing the seal of the container to be broken and the snap-fit connection to be released.

20. (New) The container of Claim 16 in which the closure plate is downwardly concave and thus extends into the neck and includes a base portion, integral with which is an upwardly extending wall portion, which is connected to the annular web.

21. (New) The container of Claim 20 in which the inner surface of the neck and the outer surface of the wall portion of the closure plate are first and second surfaces in sealing engagement with each other.

22. (New) The container of Claim 21 in which the sealing engagement is along an annular surface that is inclined upwardly and outwardly with respect to the axis.

23. (New) The container of Claim 21 in which one of the first and second sealing surfaces carries an annular protuberance

which is accommodated within an annular recess in the other of the first and second sealing surfaces.

24. (New) The container of Claim 16 in which the annular flange that is integral with the underside of the annular web is deflected laterally by contact with the side surface of the neck of the bottle, with which it forms the third gas seal.

25. (New) The container of Claim 1 in which the lid is snap-fitted on the receptacle, the closure plate is downwardly concave and thus extends into the neck and includes a base portion, integral with which is an upwardly extending wall portion which is connected to the annular web, and including a rupture tab connected to the annular web, rotation of which causes the seal of the container to be broken and the snap-fit connection to be released.

26. (New) The container of Claim 25 in which one of the first and second sealing surfaces carries an annular protuberance which is accommodated within an annular recess in the other of the first and second sealing surfaces, and in which an annular flange is integral with the underside of the annular web and is

deflected laterally by contact with the side surface of the neck of the bottle, with which it forms a further seal.

27. (New) The container of Claim 16 in which a thickness of the flange increases with distance from the hinge.

28. (New) The container of Claim 24 in which a thickness of the flange increases with distance from the hinge.